

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus are described for re-routing user connections between first and second nodes in a network switch. A loop-back path provides connectivity between the first and second nodes. The first node has a primary connection and a secondary connection. The primary connection carries the user connections during a normal mode. A switching element is coupled to the loop-back path and the first node to switch the connectivity from the primary connection to the secondary connection when there is a failure condition at the primary connection.

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